

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (Currently amended) A production process for an alkylene oxide addition product, which comprises the step of carrying out an addition reaction of an alkylene oxide to a hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound in order to obtain the alkylene oxide addition product;

with the production process further comprising: an initial step of causing the alkylene oxide to add by an addition reaction to the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound in an amount of not larger than 20 mols on average of the alkylene oxide per 1 mol of the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound to thereby obtain an alkylene oxide low-mol-addition product wherein the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound has a water content of not more than 6,000 ppm; and a molar-degree-of-polyaddition-adjusting step of causing the alkylene oxide to further add by an addition reaction to the alkylene oxide low-mol-addition product as obtained in the initial step; wherein a ~~portion~~ part of the entirety of the alkylene oxide low-mol-addition product as obtained in the initial step is used in the molar-degree-of-polyaddition-adjusting step, and where the amount of the alkylene oxide used in the molar-degree-of-polyaddition-adjusting step is not larger than 20 mols on average per 1 mol of the alkylene oxide low-mol-addition product.

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) A production process for an alkylene oxide addition product according to claim 1, wherein the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound is a saturated monohydric alcohol or monohydric phenol having 1 to 30 carbon atoms.

4. (Currently amended) A production process for a (meth)acrylate ester, which comprises the step of carrying out an esterification reaction between (meth)acrylic acid and an alkylene oxide addition product from a hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound or a transesterification reaction between the alkylene oxide addition product and an alkyl ester of (meth)acrylic acid, thereby obtaining the (meth)acrylate ester;

wherein the alkylene oxide addition product from the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound is a product obtained by a process including: an initial step of causing the alkylene oxide to add by an addition reaction to the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound in an amount of not larger than 20 mols on average of the alkylene oxide per 1 mol of the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound to thereby obtain an alkylene oxide low-mol-addition product, wherein the hydroxyl-group containing saturated compound has a water content of not more than 6,000 ppm; and a molar-degree-of-polyaddition-adjusting step of causing the alkylene oxide to further add by an addition reaction to the alkylene oxide low-mol-addition product as obtained in the initial step; wherein a ~~portion~~ part of the entirety of the alkylene oxide low-mol-addition product as obtained in the initial step is used in the molar-degree-of-polyaddition-adjusting step, and where the amount of the alkylene oxide used in the molar-degree of polyaddition-adjusting step is not larger than 20 mols on average per 1 mol of the alkylene oxide low-mol-addition product.

Claim 5 (Cancelled)

6. (Previously presented) A production process for a (meth)acrylate ester according to claim 4, wherein the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound is a saturated monohydric alcohol or monohydric phenol having 1 to 30 carbon atoms.

7. (Currently amended) A production process for a (meth)acrylic copolymer, which comprises the step of carrying out a polymerization reaction of a monomer component including a (meth)acrylate ester to thereby obtain the (meth)acrylic copolymer;

wherein:

the (meth)acrylate ester is a product obtained by a process including the step of carrying out an esterification reaction between (meth)acrylic acid and an alkylene oxide addition product from a hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound or a transesterification reaction between the alkylene oxide addition product and an alkyl ester of (meth)acrylic acid;

wherein the alkylene oxide addition product from the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound is a product obtained by a process including: an initial step of causing the alkylene oxide to add by an addition reaction to the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound in an amount of not larger than 20 mols on average of the alkylene oxide per 1 mol of the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound to thereby obtain an alkylene oxide low-mol-addition product, wherein the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound has a water content of not more than 6,000 ppm; and a molar-degree-of-polyaddition-adjusting step of causing the alkylene oxide to further add by an addition reaction to the alkylene oxide low-mol-addition product as obtained in the initial step; wherein a ~~portion~~ part of the entirety of the alkylene oxide low-mol-addition product as obtained in the initial step is used in the molar-degree-of-polyaddition-adjusting step to obtain the alkylene oxide addition product, and where only the resulting alkylene oxide addition product obtained in the molar-degree-of-polyaddition-adjusting step is used in the esterification reaction or transesterification reaction and where the amount of the alkylene oxide used in the molar-degree-of-polyaddition-adjusting step is not larger than 20 mols on average per 1 mol of the alkylene oxide low-mol-addition product.

Claim 8 (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) A production process for a (meth)acrylic copolymer according to claim 7, wherein the hydroxyl-group-containing saturated compound is a saturated monohydric alcohol or monohydric phenol having 1 to 30 carbon atoms.

10. (New) An admixture for cement comprising a (meth)acrylic copolymer obtained according to the process of claim 7.